

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

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FODAG

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SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PREPARATOR MEETING, MAY 11 AND MAY 12

SUMMARY: UNDER STEADY PRESSURE FROM CHAIRMAN WHO WANTED TO WIND UP MEETING EARLY FRIDAY, DISCUSSION COMPLETED ON GENDA ITEMS 5(B) - INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; 5(C) FOOD AID TARGETS AND POLICIES; 5(D) - WORLD FOOD SECURITY; 5(A) - IFAD; 5(E) - OTHER ISSUES; 6 - FUTURE PROGRAM OF WORK: AND 7 - DATE AND PLACE OF THIRD SESSION

1. AGENDA ITEMS 5(B) AND (C) - PREPARATORY MEETING OF WORLD FOOD COUNCIL CONCERNED ITSELF WITH TWO SECRETARIAT DOCUMENTS: (1) INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DECELOPING COUNTRIES (WFC/20) AND (2) FOOD AID TARGETS AND POLICIES (WFC/25). ON WFC/20 THE SECRETARIAT WANTED TO ESTABLISH A SENSE OF DIRECTOR ON THREE ISSUES: (1) NEED TO ESTABLISH FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES FOR FOCUSING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE BASED ON PROPOSED SET OF CRITERIA; (2) INCREASE FLOW OF

EXTERNAL RESOURCES ON CONCESSIONAL TERMS AND (3) ELIMINATE CONSTRAINTS SO THAT ADDITIONAL RESOURCES COULD BE EFFECTIVELY UTILIZED. THE SECRETARIAT PROPOSED THAT IDENTIFICATION OF HOW TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES BE UNDERTAKEN IN THE COMING YEAR SO THAT THE THIRD MEETING OF WFC WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO GIVE ADDITIONAL DIRECTION TO THE FLOW OF RESOURCES. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS, DELEGATES PRAISED WFC/20 EMPHASIZING THE NEED TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY AND LARGE DID NOT SUPPORT FURTHER STUDY OF AREAS WITHIN COUNTRIES WHERE ADDITIONAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE DIRECTED. INSTEAD THEY CALLED FOR ACTION PROGRAMS DIRECTED TOWARD INCREASING RESOURCE FLOWS. SEVERAL LDCS QUESTIONED DESIRABILITY ESTABLISH LIST OF FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES. OTHER DELEGATES EMPHASIZED THE NEED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON ESTABLISHING LIST OF FOOD PRIORITY COUNTRIES AND THAT FURTHER STUDY, ESPECIALLY ON CONSTRAINTS TO INCREASING PRODUCTION, SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN. DISCUSSIONS ON WFC/20 WERE CONCLUDED WITHOUT PROTRACTED DEBATE. DISCUSSIONS ON WFC/25 WERE UNEVENTFUL. DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ARGUED FOR REACHING 10 MILLION TON TARGET AND FOR FORWARD COMMITMENTS ON FOOD AID. DEVELOPED COUNTRIES CITED RECORD OF FOOD AID FLOWS AND POLICIES BEING FOLLOWED.

2. AGENDA ITEM 5(D) - WFC DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AZIZ' INTRODUCTION CHARACTERIZED THIS ISSUE AS ONE OF 3 PILLARS DISCUSSED AT WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE BUT LAMENTED LITTLE PROGRESS IN PUTTING GRAINS RESERVE SYSTEM INTO EFFECT. ACCORDINGLY, WFC SECRETARIAT PROPOSED DISAGGREGATION OF PROBLEM WITH VIEW TO DEVELOPING SUPPORT FOR INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS. IWS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY GAVE USUAL COMPLETE AND CAREFULLY BALANCED REPORT ON WORK TAKING PLACE IN LONDON; UNCTAD SECRETARIAT STATEMENT EMPHASIZED LDC INTEREST IN A GRAINS AGREEMENT; AND GATT REP INFORMED MEETING OF FORTHCOMING GRAINS SUB-GROUP SESSION. LDCS GENERALLY TOOK JAUNDICED LOOK AT SECRETARIAT EFFORT TO DISAGGREGATE -- EMPHASIZING COMPLEXITIES AND SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED. THE LDCS SUPPORTED SECRETARIAT EFFORT AFTER CRITICIZING SLOW MOVEMENT. AZIZ COMMENTED AT END OF DISCUSSION THAT SECRETARIAT HOPED THEIR PROPOSAL WOULD BE CONSIDERED FURTHER AT MINISTERIAL AFTER DELEGATES HAD OPPORTUNITY RECONSIDER VIEWS. US COMMENTS FOCUSED ON THREE ELEMENTS OF SYSTEM RECOMMENDED BY WFC SECRETARIAT, ARGUING THAT: (A) 500,000 TON EMERGENCY RESERVE HAD JUST BEEN DELT WITH BY CFA; (B) SEPARATE DONOR RESERVE FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOOD AID NO APPLICABLE TO US SINCE FULL PRODUCTION POLICY ASSURED US ABILITY TO MEET EXPORT COMMITMENTS, INCLUDING FOOD AID; AND (C) THAT 15 MILLION TON FOOD GRAIN RESERVE, ON BASIS OF US ANALYSIS, LIKELY TO BE INADEQUATE TO PROTECT AGAINST PRODUCTION SHORTFALLS. MOREOVER, POSSIBLE ARRANGEMENTS TO EMBRACE WORLD FOOD SECURITY, IN PARTICULAR US PROPOSAL, WERE UNDER ACTIVE DISCUSSION ELSEWHERE.

3. AGENDA ITEM 5(A) - OPED CONTRIBUTION REPORTED SEPARATELY. THERE WERE TRIBUTES TO HANNAH AND MAREI FROM MANY QUARTERS FOR BRINGING IFAD CLOSE TO A REALITY. MEXICO RAISED QUESTION ABOUT IFAD CATEGORIES, PARTICULARLY WHERE MEXICO WOULD FALL: NOTING THAT ECUADOR AS OPEC MEMBER WOULD BE IN CATEGORY II WHEREAS OTHER LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES IN CATEGORY III, AND THIS COULD CREATE RIFTS AMONG LATIN AMERICANS. HANNAH SKIRTED RESPONSE AND TOLD MEXICANS HE WOULD HAVE IFAD LAWYER TALK PRIVATELY TO MEXICAN DEL. HANNAH SUMMATION WAS USUAL OPTIMISTIC APPROACH THAT GOOD WILL WOULD OVERCOME ALL PROBLEMS. HE NOTED THAT PRESENT INDICATIONS REFLECT THAT \$1 BILLION TARGET WILL NOT BE REACHED. HE ALSO NOTED IN PASSING THAT YUGOSLAVIA WOULD CONTRIBUTE \$300,000 IN INCONVERTIBLE CURRENCIES WITH THE PHILIPPINES PROVIDING \$50,000.

4. AGENDA ITEM 5(E) - NO DISCUSSION BUT CHAIR INDICATED REPORT WILL TAKE NOTE OF PREVIOUS COMMENTS REGARDING FERTILIZER, PESTICIDES AND OTHER INPUTS.

5. AGENDA ITEM 6 - COMMENTS CONCENTRATED ON NEED OF WFC FOCUS ON LIMITED NUMBER OF KEY ISSUES. US AND OTHER DCS INDICATED THAT TRADE DID NOT FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY, ALTHOUGH US COMMENT ON POSSIBLE WFC ROLE IN EXAMINING AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES WAS NOT AS DOGMATIC AS SOME OTHERS, PARTICULARLY AUSTRALIA. IN EFFECT, US SAID THAT WHILE IT MIGHT BE HELPFUL FOR WFC TO RECEIVE INFO FROM GATT ON MTN PROGRESS. THERE WAS NO NEGOTIATING ROLE FOR WFC IN THIS AREA. ALTHOUGH LDCS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT TRADE SHOULD BE TACKLED BY WFC, IT IS PROBABLE THAT THEY WILL NOT PRESS FOR MORE THAN KEEP OPEN OPPORTUNITY COMPLAIN ABOUT DC TRADE MEASURES (PARTICULARLY EC RESTRICTIONS). AZIZ ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SEARCH FOR MEANINGFUL WFC ROLE IN TRADE HAS ALWAYS BEEN DIFFICULT.

6. AGENDA ITEM 7 - PREP COM DECIDED THAT PREPARATORY MEETING WILL BE IN MAY 1977 AND MINISTERIAL MEETING IN JUNE 1977. ROME WILL BE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITE.

7. WORK NOW BEGINS ON REPORT TO MINISTERIAL WITH RAPPORTEUR EMPHASIZING DESIRE PRODUCE A BRIEF REPORT WHICH FACILITATES MINISTERIAL FOCUS ON KEY ISSUES BUT SOME LDCS WANT REPORT REFLECT ALL VIEWS EXPRESSED.

8. HANNAH TOOK OPPORTUNITY INTERVENTION ON WORK PROGRAM TO STATE THAT SECRETARIAT NEEDS MORE STAFF CAPABILITY IN THE VARIOUS AREAS. THIS WILL REQUIRE A TOTAL PROFESSIONAL STAFF OF 12-15 PEOPLE AND, TO AVOID PREVIOUS DIFFICULTIES THEY SHOULD ALL BE FINANCED BY THE UN.VOLPE

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